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the single calendering step, the undrawn fibers in the single fibrous web are bonded in a tension-free manner between non-heated profiled calender rolls to form the non-woven fabric, without inhomogeneities over the cross-section of the non-woven fabric and without the use of flat bonding, and wherein during the single calendering step, spacers are formed in the non-woven fabric to thereby form the filter material.

Please cancel claims 2 to 4 without prejudice.

### Remarks

#### I. Introduction

Claims 1 to 4 are pending in the present application. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

#### II. Rejection of Claims 1 to 4 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1 to 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Specifically, the Final Office Action contends that the recitation of "undrawn and fully drawn synthetic fibers" raises an issue of new matter.

For the reasons set forth in Applicant's Amendment dated August 23, 2002, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's contention that the recitation of "fully drawn synthetic fibers" constitutes new matter. However, for the purposes of expediting the allowance of the present application, and without prejudice, Applicant has amended claim 1 to delete "fully" from the phrase "fully drawn". Thus, claim 1 presently recites "undrawn and drawn synthetic fibers".

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 fully complies with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, and withdrawal of this rejection with respect to claim 1 is therefore respectfully requested. Claim 2 to 4, on the other hand, are hereby canceled without prejudice, and thus the rejection of these claims is rendered moot. Thus, withdrawal of this rejection with respect to claims